



enforcement of sentences, assistance to national jurisdictions, and archives management.

6. The Group has also taken note that e

on these changes. The Group believes that it is the Assistant Secretary General for the mechanism who is accountable to the General Assembly and not the president nor the prosecutor and will therefore support retaining the previous agreed text as contained in paragraph 19 of the proposed budget for 2020 in document A/74/355 to avoid unnecessary and complicated debate which could have been handled by the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

13. The Group has also taken note of the progress made so far in mandate implementation including low level of projected under-expenditure due to Covid-19 pandemic. The Group is however not in a position to support the ACABQ comments to conclude requirements for 2021 based on the expenditure pattern for 2020, just as it has not for many other offices and departments.

**Mr. Chair,**

14. Turning to staffing and recruitment, the Group has over the years been pleased to see efforts made to bring gender balance and equitable geographical representation. We hope that this trend will be maintained and will be interested to see more improvement for candidates from developing countries at all levels to address the existing imbalances.

15. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the observations by the ACABQ on the need for the nationalization plans of the posts and position in all branches. We will also be interested in learning how the Mechanism structure will look as judicial activities are completed in the Hague in 2021 and later years in Arusha. We will also be interested to understand the rationale for keeping such a high number of staffing in The Hague at a time where the judicial activities are winding up, instead of Arusha where activities are on the increase. We will seek specific clarification on this during our informal consultations.

16. The Group has also taken note of the information contained in the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the Mechanism for the year ending December, 2019 as well as the status of implementation of the related recommendations as presented by the Secretary General.

**Mr. Chair,**

17. Finally, the Group wishes to express our appreciation to the governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Netherlands for their continued support to the work of the Mechanism and other United Nation entities. We stand ready to engage positively with a view to reaching consensus and a positive outcome on this important item in a timely manner, taking into account the time constraints.

**I thank you.**